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CONTACT: Ben Weiss, Bicycle/Pedestrian Program
Manager

PHONE: 552-6352

E-MAIL: bweiss@ci.missoula.mt.us

TRAFFIC CHANGES IN STORE FOR LOWER MILLER CREEK/LINDA VISTA INTERSECTION

Commuters who use Lower Miller Creek Road and Linda Vista Boulevard will see changes at the intersection of the two roads on Jan. 2. The changes should improve traffic flow and safety.

At the intersection now, drivers westbound on Lower Miller Creek have no stop signs, drivers eastbound have a stop sign and northbound drivers on Linda Vista have a free right turn and a stop sign for left turns.

In the new configuration, Linda Vista drivers will have a stop sign at the intersection. Drivers eastbound on Lower Miller Creek will no longer have to stop. The changes mean that drivers westbound on Lower Miller Creek will have to pay special attention before making a left turn onto Linda Vista, and Linda Vista drivers will have to remember to stop before turning either direction. For a while during the transition to the new traffic patterns, several advance warning signs and a message board will alert drivers to the changes.

The reason for the changes is the increased traffic volumes following the opening of the new Rankin School. Usually, in standard traffic patterns, the top of a T intersection is the dominant movement, and the leg of the T sees lower traffic volumes. City traffic specialists estimated that the intersection would not see those patterns until buildout of the Miller Creek subdivisions.

However, the school has brought more traffic on the eastbound leg, bringing the intersection to the traffic thresholds that warrant the changes.

“While neighbors and visitors to the area get used to the change, we advise extra caution. Despite potential near-term confusion, we believe the reconfiguration is the right thing to do for long-term safety and vehicle flow,” said Ben Weiss, Bicycle/Pedestrian Program Manager and a traffic specialist for the City. “As with any change, we will continue to monitor how it is functioning, and we welcome feedback.”

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Ginny Merriam, Public Information/Communications Director, 552-6007 (o), 546-7692 (c)